

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A write once read many magnetic tape system, said system comprising:
a tape cartridge comprising a length of magnetic tape adapted to record and store electronic data, and an electronic memory device; and
a tape drive that receives said tape cartridge and reads said memory device, wherein said drive is operable only in a write once read many mode in response to information read from said memory device.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said drive ejects said cartridge in response to said drive being unable to recognize said information from said memory device.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said tape cartridge only functions in a tape drive capable of recognizing said information read from said memory device to place said drive in said write once read many mode.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein said information read from said memory device is a tape cartridge type.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein said tape cartridge type is contained on a manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein said electronic memory device, at least in part, comprises nonvolatile electronic memory.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said memory device is read only.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said memory device is an electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein said tape cartridge further comprises a tape destruction mechanism, operable in response to opening of said tape cartridge, to render said tape unusable.

10. A write once read many magnetic tape with cartridge memory, said tape comprising:

a cartridge;

a length of magnetic tape medium is capable of storing electronic data, said magnetic tape medium being operably housed in said cartridge; and

a memory device is disposed within said cartridge, said memory device is capable of being read by selected tape drives, said memory device identifying said tape as a write once read many tape type.

11. The tape of claim 10 wherein said tape cartridge is ejected in response to a drive failing to recognize said write once read many tape type.

12. The tape of claim 10 wherein said tape only functions in a tape drive capable of placing said drive in a write once read many mode in response to said write once read many tape type identification.

13. The tape of claim 10 wherein said memory device, at least in part, comprises nonvolatile memory.

14. The tape of claim 10 wherein said write once read many tape type is contained on a manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.

15. The tape of claim 10 wherein at least a portion of said memory device is read only.

16. The tape of claim 10 wherein said memory device is an electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.

17. The tape of claim 9 wherein said tape cartridge further comprises at least one mechanism operable in response to opening said tape cartridge to render said tape unusable.

18. The tape of claim 17 wherein said at least one mechanism is selected from a group consisting of:

welded seams joining said cartridge;
glued seams joining said cartridge;
snap fitted joining said cartridge; and
spring-loaded tape destruction mechanism.

19. A method to convert a magnetic tape drive to a write once read many tape drive, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a magnetic tape cartridge comprising a memory device, said memory device identifying said tape cartridge as a write once read many type tape cartridge;

receiving said tape cartridge in said magnetic tape drive;

reading, with said magnetic tape drive, said write once read many tape type from said memory device; and

initializing said tape drive, in response to said read tape type, in a write once read many mode.

20. The method of claim 19 comprising the step of:
write protecting data written on a tape in said tape cartridge.
21. The method of claim 19 wherein said initializing step further comprises the step of:
limiting functions that said tape drive may perform, while said tape is in said drive, to tape transport, tape reading and writing to blank portions of a tape in said tape cartridge.
22. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:
enabling said tape cartridge to only function in a tape drive capable of recognizing said tape cartridge as a write once read many type tape cartridge.
23. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:
ejecting said tape cartridge from said tape drive in response to said tape drive being unable to read said write once read many tape type.
24. The method of claim 19 wherein said tape type is contained on a manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.
25. The method of claim 19 wherein said memory device, at least in part, comprises nonvolatile memory.
26. The method of claim 19 wherein at least a portion of said memory device is read only.
27. The method of claim 19 wherein said memory device is an electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.